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ity. Shrinkage affects all zones, and may even originate in the deeper. Double distortional effects result. On account of the thick segments concerned, stresses may accumulate, and thus bring about extensive movements after long periods of rest.

The difficulties in the path of the modern vulcanologist are clearly indicated in the discussion of six theories which have been advanced to account for the origin of lavas and forces which expel them. After a succinct statement of the theories and of the objections to them, the authors briefly outline the explanation of the phenomena of vulcanism according to the accretion hypothesis, leaving the full treatment of the subject for the second volume. Water is evidently one of the most powerful agents in an explosive eruption, but, according to the new theory, the chief source of this substance is the deep interior, and not the surface. In fact, the volcanic gases (including steam) are additions to the atmosphere and the hydrosphere. The general force of extrusion is considered to lie in deep-seated periodic and other stresses, and the slow pressure, due to creep of the rock adjacent, to the supposed slender threads of liquid rock. The frequent pauses in action are assigned to temporary deficiencies of supply; the renewals to the gathering of new supplies after a sufficient period of accumulation.

The concluding chapter of the volume is devoted to a presentation of the geologic functions of life, and may be considered introductory to Volume II, which is to treat of historical geology. The discussion here of the contributions to the rocks made by the different classes of plants and animals will be found highly suggestive.

The book is well printed on heavy-coated paper. The paper makes it ponderous, and the highly-glazed surface is somewhat trying to the eyes, unless the angle at which the light comes in is just right, but the resulting excellent character of the abundant half-tone illustrations is a compensating advantage. The volume is a welcome addition to the series of treatises upon geologic science, and its clear, succinct, interesting style commends it most highly to the general reader as well as to the student and professional geologist.

E. O. H.

The Expansion of Russia, 1815-1900. By Francis Henry Skrine. viii and 386 pp., Index, and 3 maps. The University Press, Cambridge, England.

This volume appears in the Cambridge Historical Series, whose aim is to facilitate the work of those who desire to understand the existing political conditions in the various States of modern Europe.

Mr. Skrine sets forth, in clear light, the forces that have been in play to build up the vast dominion of Russia and to produce the social and political conditions which now exist. While he counts autocracy as the most potent factor in the development of the empire, he, of course, includes geographical environment as among the determining influences. He shows the isolation which for generations cut Russia off from the currents of modern life, depicts the Caucasus as the lofty chain that long called a halt in the migration of the human race westward, and describes the distribution of resources. The maps show the lines of Russian advance in the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the Balkan Peninsula and the Russian Empire of 1900. The topic is a large one; but it is condensed with lucidity, and is a vivid account of the influences and events that have been shaping the history of Russia.

Der Paraguay-Tee (Yerba Mate). By Prof. Dr. F. W. Neger and Dr. L. Vanino. 56 pp., 22 illustrations, and a Bibliography. Fr. Grub. Stuttgart, 1903. Price (paper), 2 m.

This is a scientific study of a plant that, for unknown ages, has been used in the decoction of a beverage somewhat resembling Chinese tea. Its use is very widely spread in South America. The authors say that the Spanish name of the plant is Yerba Mate, not Maté, as it is commonly written. Proof has been found that the plant was in use in the days of the Peruvian Incas, probably 1,000 years ago. The beverage is now found in every house or hut in the southeast quarter of South America, and merchants are trying to introduce it into Europe, and particularly into Germany. The book gives the history of the plant as far as it is known, describes the different varieties, devotes a chapter to its chemistry, treats of the methods of collecting and cultivating it, establishes its growing importance as a commercial product, and concludes with a bibliography. It is an able, authoritative, and interesting treatment of this important economic plant.

Uganda. By Julius Richter. vii and 268 pp. C. Bertelsmann. Gütersloh, 1893. (Price, 3 marks.)

This is a German contribution to the history of evangelical missions and colonial policy in Central Africa. It tells the story of Uganda and its kings and people and then takes up the history of the missions from the time of Stanley's famous appeal through subsequent days of sunshine, anxiety, and tragedy to 1892. The book summarizes for German readers some of the most remarkable and finally fruitful of missionary enterprises.